

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 4-8, 12 and 13 are rejected. Claims 2, 3, 14 and 15 are objected to. Claims 9-11 and 16-19 are allowed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections and objections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

The drawings are objected to because reference character '108' designates both circuit 1 electrodes and circuit 2 electrodes in Figure 1, and because the reference character '208' designates both circuit 1 and circuit 2 electrodes in Figure 2. Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's suggestion to remedy the aforementioned discrepancies. Hence, the electrodes associated with circuit 2 in Fig. 1 are renumbered as '208' and, one pair of electrodes in Fig. 2 is renumbered as '108'. Formal drawings including the aforementioned revisions are submitted under separate cover and are attached to this Amendment.

Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 12-15 are canceled. Claim 5 is amended, and now refers to allowed Claim 9. No new matter was added.

Claim 16 is amended to correct an improper antecedent basis.

New Claim 20 is added and is a combination of allowed Claim 16 and original Claim 5.

New Claim 21 is added and is a method claim of allowed claim 9.

Applicants acknowledge allowed Claims 9-11 and 16-19.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Carter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,584,358). Claims 1, 4, 6-8, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Johnson et al. (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/009425). The aforementioned rejections are respectfully transversed.

In view of the amendments to the Claims as described in the 'Remarks', the §102 rejections are rendered moot. Applicants in no way relinquish their rights to further prosecute the canceled claims in a continuation application in the future.

Applicants respectfully request immediate allowance of this application.

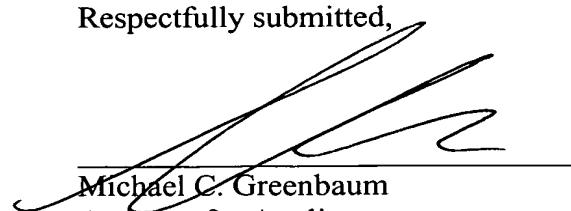
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment and the above remarks obviate the outstanding rejections and objections in this case, thereby placing the application in condition for immediate allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

If any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§116 or 1.17 are due in connection with this filing, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No.: 23-2185 (000309-00024).

If any fees for extensions of time are due in connection with this filing, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No.: 23-2185 (000309-00024).

Respectfully submitted,



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